

PROPOSAL FROM FOREIGN MINISTER EDEN
TO AMBASSADOR SHIGEMITSU ON 7 FEBRUARY
SHOWA 16, 1941

1. At the first interview with the Foreign Minister after the formation of the KONOYE Cabinet, Ambassador CRAIGIE expressed the hope that the new Cabinet would collaborate and settle the relations between the two countries by friendly measures as did the preceding Cabinet. To this Foreign Minister MATSUOKA replied that the Cabinet was considering carefully the general policy for the future, and added at the same time, as his unofficial idea, that a general improvement of the relation between Japan and England could not be hoped for, and a strained situation between Japan and England in the future was inevitable.

Two days after the interview occurred the arrests of many Englishmen in Japan and Korea, on which a joint statement by the War Minister and Minister of Justice was issued, giving generally the impression of the existence of an English spy ring in Japan. But the result of the trial was that they were punished for trivial matters, and there was nothing about spies.

This was the general situation in July and August. In September Japan concluded the Tripartite Pact and formally joined on the side of Germany and Italy, enemies of Britain. The public speeches of statesmen and the tendency of the press were deepening more and more anxiety on the part of England.

2. Foreign Minister MATSUOKA said in his official statement that the Tripartite Pact was a pact of peace, and you also stated that the main policy of Japan was to overcome the difficulties of the China affair and restore order in East Asia. But judging from facts which have happened since then, and considering all the indications that the sphere of influence of Japan is being enlarged to dominate East Asia, frankly the above explanation is hard to understand.

In this connection the British Government wishes to call your attention to the impropriety of the statement of Foreign Minister MATSUOKA concerning Japanese aspirations in Burma. As regards Indo-China and Thailand also, recent situations have not mitigated the strained relation in the

Far East at all. Foreign Minister MATSUOKA said that only Japan had the right to mediate in the conflicts in the Far East, but the British Government can not approve of this claim.

If the purpose of the mediation were merely to bring about a settlement of conflicts, Britain would welcome it like all the other countries. But we have received the disquieting information that Japan had brought pressure to bear on Indo-China and Thailand, and we have come to entertain misgivings whether Japan were not using this mediation as a pretext to secure far-reaching political and military concessions from both these countries---e.g. newspaper information reports that Camran Bay and all the existing air-fields will be used by Japan.

3. The most important fact is the recent report of Ambassador Craigie, informing us that "In Japan the prevailing impression is that the crisis in the Far East will occur within these two or three weeks".

What do these facts mean? Who is challenging whom? Should we believe that a sort of advance planned by Japan will be carried out simultaneously with the German attack on England proper, and if so should Britain assume that her territories in the Far East are in danger of an attack by Japan? It is hard for me to understand the situation. Geographically Japan is in an advantageous position, so that she can remain entirely aloof from the calamity of war if she so desires, and moreover she is not being threatened by any one, certainly not by England.

If I may be allowed to speak frankly, it seems to me that Japan has many reasons for not intervening in another war after four years of the China Incident. In my opinion, Japan can not but recognize her reason for being on unfriendly terms with Britain and the United States, but as proved by history, it can not be denied that the prosperity of Japan was at its best when she was at friendly relations with Britain and the United States. So it is hard for me to understand the reason why Ambassador Craigie reported of the sphere of crisis increasing in Japan. It seems to me that the aim of the Japanese statesmen is to indicate the approach of a huge confusion.

4. You will be able to understand that it is impossible to disregard the above signs and portents, and that it is necessary to tell you clearly our standpoint. England has territories in the Far East, but she has no aggressive intentions; however, she does not intend to sacrifice these territories by orders from any other country. And furthermore, it is impossible to approve of the principle that Japan is the sole country having the right to administer and control the destiny of all the inhabitants (including the English) in the Far East. There is no doubt that Britain will protect her territories in the Far East with the utmost vigor, if they should be attacked, and defend the security and welfare of the inhabitants.

5. In addition, I wish to mention two points.

The first point is as follows: There is no objection to Japan deciding her own policy, but as an old friend and a former Allied Power, I do not think I will bring down the wrath of Japan upon myself for saying the following thing-- that I hope and pray that the policy about to be taken up by Japan will not lead to a terrible disaster. And moreover I can not but hope that, by cooperating with Germany and Italy, Japan will not depart from her wise caution and good sense with which she built up her great national power and prosperity in the past.

The second point is as follows: It is rumored that concerning the war situation, news advantageous to Britain is being suppressed in Japan, and there is propagated an idea that Britain is a decadent country on the brink of ruin. But as you know, the real spirit of the English people of today is no such thing. Not only is there a strong determination of an absolute national unity throughout the whole of the British Empire, but also England possesses vast natural resources and has unlimited assistance from America. Whatever happens it is obvious that the British Empire will not fail in this conflict. Germany is exaggerating that she can conquer this Island Empire, but we are convinced of her failure. We averted the crisis in September last year, and at present England's power on land, on sea, and in the air has increased greatly from that time. The English nation is convinced that Germany will fail in her attempt to conquer England, and be defeated in this war.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____

I.P.S. No. 1339 A (2)

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Kaoru hereby certify

that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office

and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of Six pages, dated 7 Feb., 1941, and described as follows: _____

PROPOSAL FROM FOREIGN MINISTER EDEN TO AMBASSADOR SHIGEMITSU

on 7 FEBRUARY SHOWA 16, 1941.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Foreign Ministry

Signed at Tokyo on this

21st day of Sept., 1946

/s/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness: /s/ Nagaharu Odo

Chief, Archives Sect.
Official Capacity

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Official Procurement

I, Richard H. Larsh, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

25 day of September, 1946.

/s/ Richard H. Larsh

Witness: T/4 T. Toguchi

Investigation Division I.P.S.
Official Capacity

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昭和十六年二月七日「イ・イ・デ・ン」外相ヨリ
重光大使へ申入

一近衛内閣成立後ノ外務大臣トノ第一回會見ニ於
テ「クレイギー」大使ハ新内閣モ前内閣ト同様協
力ノ精神ニ依リ友誼的手段ヲ以テ兩國ノ關係ニ
對應セラレンコトノ希望ヲ述ヘタルニ對シ松岡
外相ハ目下將來ニ關スル全體ノ御方針ヲ慎重考
究中ナルコトヲ答ヘラレ其ノ際非公式ノ意思ト
シテ日英間ニ於テハ日英關係ノ全般的改善ヲ希
望スルコトヲ得ス日英關係ノ今後ノ緊張ハ已ム
ヲ得サル旨ヲ述ヘラレタリ

右會見ノ後二日ヲ經テ日本及朝鮮ニ於ケル多數
英人逮捕ノ問題起リ之ニ對シ陸相及法相ノ共同
聲明發セラレ一般ニ英國ノ「ス・パイ」網日本ニ
存スルノ印象ヲ與ヘタルカ裁判ノ結果ハ其ノ爾
セラレ居ルコトハ懸念ナルコトニテ英ニ「ス・パ
イ」ノ事ハナカリキ

以上ハ七、八月ノ概況ナルカ九月ニ至リ日本ハ
三國同盟ヲ締結シ公然英ノ敵タル獨伊ノ側ニ投
スルニ至リ政治家ノ公ノ演説及新聞論調モ英國
側ニ對シテ益々疑惡（「ア・ン・ク・サイ・エ・テ・イ」）
ヲ深カラシムルニ至レリ

二松岡外相ノ公ノ聲明ハ三國同盟ハ平和ノ爲ノ「

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バクト「ナリト言ヘレ貴大使ニ支那問題ノ困難
ヲ克服シテ東亞ニ於ケル秩序ヲ回復スルコトカ
日本ノ主タル方針ナリト言ヘレタルカ其ノ後發
生セル事實ヨリ判断シ尙日本ヲ「ドミニネイト」
セシメ其ノ勢力範圍ヲ擴張シツツアル總テノ
兆候ヨリ見て以上ノ説明ハ率直ニ諒解ニ當ル所
ナリ

此ノ點ニ關シ美國政府ハ松岡外相カ「ビルマ」
ニ關シ日本ノ「アスビレイション」ニ付不適當
ナ言辭ナリト懸念シ居ル點注意ヲ喚起シ度シ次
ニ印度支那及「タイ」國ノ國境ニ付テモ最近ノ
事態ハ何等程度ニ於ケル緊張ヲ緩和スルニ至ラ
ス松岡外相ハ「東亞ニ於ケル紛争ハ日本ノシカニ
停スルノ權利アリト言ヘレタルカ右ノ「クレイ
ム」ハ美政府ノ承認シ得サル所ナリ

若シ停戦ノ目的カ單ニ紛争ノ解決ヲ寄スモノナ
ラハ勿論美國モ總テノ他ノ國ト同様歡迎スヘキ
ナリ然レドモ日本カ獨逸及「タイ」ニ壓迫ヲ加
ヘタリトノ不穩ナル報告アリ此ノ關係カ此等兩
國ヨリ甚大ナル政治上及軍事上ノ「コンセンサ
ション」ヲ確保スル口實ニ用ヒラレ居ルニ非スヤ
トノ疑念ヲ持ツニ至レリ例ヘハ新聞情報カ「カ
ムラン」記及總テノ政府飛行場ハ日本ノ使用ニ
供セラルト報セルカ如シ

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三長モ重要ナル點ハ最近「ク」大使ノ報告ニシテ
同大使ハ「日本ニ於テハ近東ノ危局カ茲ニ、三
週間中ニ發生セントノ一般的感想アリ」ト報告
シ來タレリ
右ハ如何ナル事ヲ意味スルヤ何人カ何人ニ對シ
婉言スルモノナリヤ日本ニ依リ企テラレ居ル武
ル種ノ前進カ美本國ニ礙スル獨ノ政勢ト同時ニ
行ヘルル事ヲ信スヘキヤ若シ然リトセハ美國ハ
近東ニ於ケル美ノ領土カ日本ノ政變ノ危險ニ瀕
シ居レリト認ムヘキヤ事態ハ自分ノ關係ニ苦ム
所ナリ日本ハ地理的ニ有利ナル位置ヲ有シ若シ
欲スルニ於テハ願ヨリ全然得ル可ニテ又
日本ハ何人ヨリモ特ニ英國ヨリハ脅迫ヲ受ケ居
ラス
若シ自分ニ思憚ナキ言フ許サルルナラ日本カ支
那事變四年ノ後更ニ他ノ國等ニ介入セサルヲ可
トスルノ多クノ理由ヲ持ツ機運ヘルル自分ノ考
ニテハ日本ハ英國及美國ト非友誼的ノ關係ニ在
ルノ理由ハ之ヲ認メサルニ非ルモ歴史ノ證明ス
ルカ如ク日本ノ繁榮ハ英米ト良好ノ關係ニアル
場合最モ著シカリシコトハ爭ハレサル所ナリ「
クレイギー」大使カ日本ニ於テ危機ノ範圍増加
シツツアルコトヲ報告シ來レル理由ヲ了解スル
ニ苦ム位ナリ日本政治家ノ目的トスル所ハ或大

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ナル混亂カ迫リ居ルコトヲ示サントスルモノノ
如ク見ユ

四 上記ノ如キ後援及情報ヲ無視スルコトノ不可能
ニシテ其ノ立場ヲ明瞭ニ御話スルノ必要モ了解
セラルヘシ美國ハ恒東ニ於テ領土ヲ有スルカ美
國ハ何等侵略的行爲ノ意圖ハ有セサルモ如何ナ
ル他ノ國ノ指令ニ依リテモ之等領域ヲ機往ニス
ルノ意圖ヲ有セス尙日本ノミカ恒東ニ於ケル凡
テノ住民（美人ヲモ含ム）ノ運命ヲ管理支配ス
ルノ權利ヲ有ストノ原則ヲ容認スルコトハ不可
能ナリ美ハ恒東ニ於ケル領域ニ於テ住民ノ安泰
及福祉ニ對シ美ノ領土ニシテ政權ヲ受ケル場合
ニ何人モ吾人カ恒力（「ウイズ、アトモスト、ヴ
イガー」）防禦スルモノナルコトヲ疑フヘカラ
ス

五 尙更ニ二ノ點ヲ述ベタシ

第一ノ點ハ日本カ日本自身ノ政策ヲ決定スベキ
コトハ兼ヨリ妥協ナキカ差シ過ぎ且昔ノ同盟國
トシテ次ノ如キ事ヲ言フモ日本ノ怒ヲ買フコト
ナカルヘシト存ニ即テ自分ハ日本ノ行ハントス
ル政策カ惡ルヘキ不幸（「テリアルディーズスタ
ー」）ニ遭マサランコトヲ希望シ祈願スルモノ
ナリ尙日本カ獨逸ト協力スルコトニ於テ過去ニ
於テ偉大ナル国力ト繁榮トヲ作上ケタル其ノ賢

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明ナル用意健全ナル判断ヲ喪失セサランコトヲ
希望シテ止マス

第二ノ點ハ戰局ニ關シ英國ニ有利ナル報道カ日
本ニ於テハ押ヘラレ英ハ沒落ニ類セル「デカタ
ン」ナリトノ愚想カ噴進セラルルトノコトナル
カ云下ノ御承知ノ通り今日ノ英國人ノ民ノ「ス
ピリット」ハ左様ナモノニ非ス英帝國全部ニ亘
リ絶對的ニ專斷一統ノ國キ決意ヲ有シ居ルノミ
ナラス英國ハ大ナル資源ヲ有シ且米國ノ側限ナ
キ援助ヲ得居リ如何ナル場合ニ於テモ此ノ戦争
ニ失敗スルコトナキハ明瞭ナリ獨逸國ハ此ノ島
帝國ヲ征服シ得ルコトヲ夢想シ居ルモ吾人ハ其
ノ失敗ヲ確信シ居レリ昨年九月ニモ吾人ハ危機
ヲ避ケ得タリ今日ハ直上海上空ニ於テ英ノ力
ハ英ノ當時ヨリモ遙ニ威力ヲ増シタリ獨逸英征
服ノ企圖失敗シ戦争ニ敗ルルコトハ英國民ノ確
信スル所ナリ

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證 明 書

「ワシントン」文書局 第
國 際 検 察 部 第一三三九△(二) 號

真據及び公正ニ關スル證明

余、林驊ハ余ガ下記ノ資格ニ於テ、即テ外務省文書課長トシテ、日本政府ト公的關係ニ在ルモノナルコト、竝ニ該官吏トシテ余ガ茲ニ添附セラレタル、六頁ヨリ成ル、千九百四十一年ノ昭和十六年ノ二月七日附、下記題名、即テ昭和十六年二月七日「イーデソン」外相ヨリ重光大使ヘ申入ノ文書ノ保管ニ任シ居ルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。

余ハ更ニ添附ノ記録及び文書ガ日本政府ノ公文書ナルコト、竝ニ右ガ下記名稱ノ省又ハ部局ノ公式書類及び綴ノ一部ナルコトヲ證明ス。(若シアラバ綴番號又ハ引用、其ノ他公式書類又ハ綴ニ於ケル該文書ノ成規所在ノ公式名稱ヲモ待記スベシ)

1339A(2) cert. 2

千九百四十六年／昭和二十二年／九月二十一日

東京ニ於テ署名

當該官吏署名欄

右ノ者ノ公的資格

證人

柿 馨

外務省文書課長

尾 戸 長 春

公式入手ニ關スル證明

余、RICHARD H. LARSH ハ、余カ聯合國最高指揮官總司令部ニ關係アルモノナルコト、竝ニ上記題名ノ文書ハ余カ公務上、日本政府ノ上記署名官吏ヨリ入手シタルモノナルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。

千九百四十六年／昭和二十二年／九月二十五日

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